



Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Photographs of exhibit of Donald Bush  
Cordry Mexican mask collection, 1979

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National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Photographs of exhibit of Donald Bush Cordry Mexican mask collection
<b>Date:</b>	1979
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.PhotoLot.80-3
<b>Extent:</b>	25 Color slides 7 Prints (silver gelatin)
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Prints donated by Department of Anthropology in 1979. Color slides donated by Barbara Stuckenrath in 1982.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The masks which formed the basis of the exhibit pictured can be found in the Department of Anthropology in accession 355867.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Cordry's photographs can be found in the National Anthropological Archives in Photo Lot 82-14 and Photo Lot 87-38.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

Donald Cordry and his wife, Dorothy Mann Cordry, also donated clothing and musical instruments from Mexico to the Department of Anthropology in accessions 361232 and 355866.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Museum of the American Indian Archives holds the Donald Bush Cordry collection of photographs and negatives, 1933-1940, as well as artifacts collected by Cordry.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The University of Texas at Austin holds the Donald Cordry Collection Relating to Mexican Masks, 1931-1978.

### Preferred Citation

Photo lot 80-3, Photographs of exhibit of the Donald Bush Cordry Mexican Mask collection, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

## Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical Note

Donald Bush Cordry (1907-1978) was an artist and photographer who studied the art of Mexican Indians. In 1931, Cordry made his first trip to Guerrero, Mexico, where he became fascinated by contemporary mask making. In 1934, Cordry moved to New York to work as a marionette designer for puppeteer Tony Sarg. While there, he contacted George G. Heye to learn more about Indigenous Mexican art. This led to a series of collecting expeditions from 1935 to 1938, during which Cordry collected Mexican masks and other artifacts for the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

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## Scope and Contents

Photographs depicting some of the masks in the Donald Cordry collection of Mexican masks, as well as an exhibit of the collection entitled "Dance Masks of Mexico," taken on February 22, 1979. Depicted individuals include several members of the Department of Anthropology, including Robert Laughlin, William Sturtevant, Porter Kier, and James Mello. The photographs were probably made by a Smithsonian photographer.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 80-3, NAA ACC 82-50

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Exhibitions  
Masks -- Mexico

### Types of Materials:

Photographs

### Names:

Cordry, Donald Bush -- Exhibitions  
Kier, Porter M.  
Laughlin, Robert M.  
Mello, James F., 1936-  
Sturtevant, William C.